

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim Status

Claims 16, 19, 23-28 are currently pending. Claims 20-22, 29 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 25-28 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and if claim 25 was rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 16. Claim 25 has been amended in to independent form. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's detailed suggestions for amending the claims to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants' representative has endeavored to incorporate all of those revisions suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicants have made clerical changes to some of the claims to improve their grammatical form. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 25-28 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 16 and 19-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 20-22, 29 and 30 have been cancelled. Applicants have amended the language of the remaining claims consistent with that suggested by the Examiner to overcome this rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 20 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by WO 01/70550 to Hinz. Claims 20 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by WO 01/70550 to Hinz in view of US 6,361,295 to Schuller. Applicants have incorporated allowable subject matter of claim 25 into claim 16, namely, "one of the first

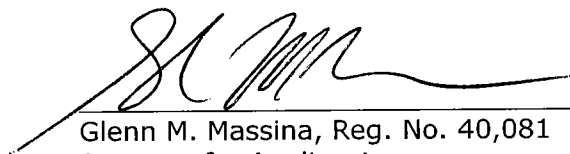
and second cage part has a cylindrical wall forming a carrier-side engagement area with which the multi-part cage assembly is accommodated in the carrier." No of the cited references teach or suggest each limitation of the claimed invention. Thus, claim 16 and the rejected claims that depend from claim 16 should now be in a condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 16, 19 and 23-28 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to arrange the same.

Respectfully submitted,


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